

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035138

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, FR, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH IRIS 80 COMPUTER TO USSR - IL 1565

REF: A) COCOM DOC (75)2643, B) OECD PARIS 3496, C) COCOM
DOC REV (71)1565/35, D) COCOM DOC (75)1444

1. THE US RESPONSE TO THIS CASE (REF A) HAS BEEN DELAYED
PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS ATTENDING THE TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT TO THE USE OF THE NEW NOTE 12
PROCEDURES AND PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF POLICY AND TECHNICAL
ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE SPECIFICATIONS AND
END-USE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH. WE CONSIDER
THE LATTER AS FALLING BELOW NEW NOTE 12 STANDARDS. NEVER-
THELESS, YOU MAY CONCUR IN THE CASE. BEFORE DOING SO,
HOWEVER, YOU ARE TO PUT ON THE RECORD THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
COMMENTS APPEARING BELOW IN PARAS 2 AND 3 SO AS TO
HEAD OFF ANY FRENCH EFFORT TO HAVE THEIR READING OF NOTE
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12 AND ITS PROCEDURES BECOME COCOM "LAW", OR EVEN COCOM

FOLKLORE, THROUGH THE LACK OF CHALLENGE. (IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER THE FRENCH LINKAGE OF A US POSITION ON REF A WITH THE US 30 DAY COMMITMENT IN PARA 45 OF REF C (SEE REF B) IS AN ATTEMPT TO GAUGE OUR REACTION, BUT WE ARE TREATING IT AS SUCH.) THESE US COMMENTS DIVIDE THEMSELVES INTO TWO SEPARATE BUT RELATED ISSUES.

2. THE CASE AND NOTE 12: TECHNICALLY, REF A IS NOT A NOTE 12 SUBMISSION CALLING FOR AUTOMATIC APPROVAL UNDER THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING (SOU) SINCE THE STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE SUBJECT IRIS-80 (3200 M/BITS) IS ABOVE 1900 M/BITS. NONE THE LESS, WE HAVE PROCESSED IT AS A NOTE 12 SUBMISSION, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE LACK OF A SIGNED END-USER STATEMENT, AS SET FORTH IN SUB-ITEM (D) OF NOTE 12, AND THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL OR END-USE/END-USER INFORMATION, AS STIPULATED IN THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING HAS RELIEVED US OF OUR 30-DAY OBLIGATION UNDER THE SOU AND GIVES US CAUSE TO TREAT REF A AS A REGULAR GENERAL EXCEPTIONS REQUEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE NEGLIGENT IN NOT CALLING TO THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION THOSE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF 30 DAYS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN ORDER TO MANIFEST THE SPIRIT OF THE 1565 AGREEMENTS, WE ARE WILLING TO TREAT REF A AS A NOTE 12 CASE. WE WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING BY THE US OF NOTE 12 CASES IS, AS REPEATED MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT REF C, CONTINGENT UPON THE SUBMISSION OF THE FULL INFORMATION STIPULATED IN NOTE 12. IN SHORT, THIS TIME OK, BUT NOT AGAIN.

3. THE CASE ITSELF: THE POLICY AND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE STEMMED FROM THE INADEQUATE INFORMATION IN REF A, AS ALLUDED TO IN PARA 2. WE BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO AIR THOSE PROBLEMS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AS EXAMPLES OF HOW INCOMPLETE TECHNICAL AND END-USE/END-USER INFORMATION COULD CAUSE THE US TO RAISE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS RE NOTE 12 CASES WITHIN THE 30-DAY PERIOD. THOSE MATTERS WHICH CAUSED US PROBLEMS ALSO FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES.

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(A) TECHNICAL: (1) REF A GAVE THE VALUE OF 95 FOR THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCESSES. THIS INDICATES THAT 4 DISC DRIVES ARE BEING PROVIDED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO US EXPERTS, THE MEMORY PERFORMANCE FACTOR OF 45000 CITED IN REF A INDICATES A CAPACITY OF 389 M/BITS FOR EACH DRIVE, OR A TOTAL OF 1556 M/BITS IF ONLY 4 DRIVES ARE PROVIDED. SINCE THE TOTAL CONNECTED CAPACITY IS GIVEN AS 3200

M/BITS, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER 4 OR 8 DISC DRIVES ARE BEING PROVIDED. WE WOULD LIKE EX POST FACTO CLARIFICATION. (WE ASSUME THAT THE MD-50 IS A 2314-TYPE DRIVE; THEREFORE, REF A, IN OUR OPINION, INVOLVES 8 DRIVES WITH THE RESULT BEING AN APPROXIMATE M/BIT TOTAL OF 3200.) (2) WE STILL SEEK CLARIFICATION AS TO HOW THE FRENCH CALCULATE THE PROCESSING DATA RATE (PDR). WE WOULD LIKE THE FRENCH TO EXAMINE A SET OF TIMING FORMULAS (POUCHED SEPARATELY) USED BY US MANUFACTURERS IN PDR CALCULATIONS AND ASCERTAIN FROM THE FRENCH WHETHER A SIMILAR SET IS AVAILABLE FOR THE IRIS-80. WE BELIEVE THAT IF SUCH A FORMULA WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE ON A FIRST TIME BASIS FOR ALL COMPUTERS SUBJECT TO NOTE 12, AS WELL AS REGULAR GENERAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS, IT WOULD FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT OF THAT COMPUTER'S CAPABILITIES. (GIVEN THE FEBRUARY 13 DEADLINE ON REF A, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE TIMING FORMULAS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED LATER.) (3) AN IRISCOPE 300 CRT IS AMONG THE ITEMS BEING PROVIDED IN REF A, BUT NO DESCRIPTION AND/OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE DEVICE HAS BEEN PROVIDED. ACCORDING TO THE END-USE STATEMENTS, THE IRIS-80 IS TO BE USED, INTER ALIA, FOR GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC TASKS WERE IDENTIFIED. IS THIS IRISCOPE 300 A GRAPHIC DEVICE OR MERELY AN ALPHUMERIC DISPLAY? WE WOULD LIKE EX POST FACTO CLARIFICATION.

(B) END-USE/END-USER: (1) THE INCOMPLETE END-USE/END-USER INFORMATION CAUSED US TO QUESTION THE NECESSITY OF THE IRIS-80 FOR THE APPLICATIONS DESCRIBED, AS WELL AS TO QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD REMAIN FULLY DEDICATED TO THOSE USES. (WE HAD SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITH REF D.) FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONSIGNEE IS A BRANCH OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY

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OF SCIENCES SPECIALIZING IN DATA PROCESSING. THERE ARE OVER 500 BRANCHES OF THE ACADEMY, MANY OF THEM HEAVILY ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO STRATEGIC-USE PROGRAMS. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO KNOW THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM, AS WELL AS WHAT STEPS HAVE, OR WILL, BE TAKEN TO DENY ACCESS TO ACADEMY INSTALLATIONS ENGAGED IN STRATEGIC-USE PROGRAMS. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE USE OF THE SYSTEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL ALGORITHMS, WHICH REQUIRE MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN WEAPONS PROGRAMS. OUR CONCERN HERE IS THAT, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, METEOROLOGICAL WORK HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE MOSCOW ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE, RAISING THE QUESTION OF HOW THE IRIS-80 WILL BE USED IN SOLVING METEOROLOGICAL

PROBLEMS BY THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IF IT IS NO LONGER INVOLVED IN THAT ACTIVITY.

4. ANOTHER SEPARATE BUT RELATED PROBLEM BUT ONE WHICH SHOULD BE RAISED BILATERALLY WITH THE FRENCH IS THE CII TYPE MD-50 DISC DRIVES. US EXPERTS IDENTIFY THOSE AS BEING PURCHASED FROM CDC (US) AS AN OEM VERSION OF THE 60 M/BIT TYPE 9742 DISC. IF SO, THEN US REEXPORT AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF A US REEXPORT APPLICATION FOR THE DRIVES RE USE IN THE SUBJECT IRIS-80, OR FOR THE ONE IN REF D. WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE USE OF US ORIGIN ITEMS IN EQUIPMENT SUBMITTED UNDER NOTE 12 MIGHT CAUSE THE US TO TAKE MORE THAN 30 DAYS TO PROCESS THE CASE, UNLESS, OF COURSE, US REEXPORT AUTHORIZATION FOR THESE ITEMS HAD ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED. WE ARE NOT MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE 9742-TYPE DISC, THIS TIME, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. WE WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE DISC DRIVES ARE, IN FACT, OF US ORIGIN. KISSINGER

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